

Secret
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3/15/77

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JUN 11 1999

Secret

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TIME THE WIND BLOW TO REGISTER NOW - 2-5-61/CS

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LATIN AMERICA BRIEF

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4. CHU E: PRESIDENT DEMOCHET, IN A RAPID SERIES OF MAJOR POLICY MOVES, HAS DEMONSTRATED HIS TIGHT CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT AND HAS SIGNALED HIS INTENTION TO MAINTAIN A TIGHT LINE. DEMOCHET HAS ABOLISHED THE COUNTRY'S REMAINING POLITICAL PARTIES, EXTENDING THE STATE OF SIEGE, AND REPLACED TWO CABINET MEMBERS. MORE CHANGES MAY BE IN THE OFFING.

THE DECISION TO "ANALYSE POLITICAL PARTIES CANE SOON AFTER MARCH-
CHET'S PUBLIC ATTACK ON ALL POLITICAL GROUPINGS, IN WHICH HE CALLED
THEM INSTRUMENTS OF "SUBVERSION." THE MILITARY DISBANDED PARTIES OF
THE LEFT IN 1973. UNTIL NOW, HOWEVER, PARTIES OF THE CENTER AND RIGHT,
ALTHOUGH SEVERELY RESTRICTED, HAD SURVIVED. THE LATEST ONE WAS A FORMER
CHIEFLY WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, HEADED BY FORMER PRESIDENT EDUARD
DOLGOBROT. THE PARTY AND "FREE" HAVE BEEN FREQUENT SOURCES OF CRITICISM
AND, IN RECENT WEEKS, HAVE APPEARED TO BE PREPARING A NEW OFFENSIVE
AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

THE JUNTA ALSO EXTENDED FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS THE STATE OF STAGE.
ON MARCH 22, I NOTED TERSELY THAT CONDITIONS WARRANTING AN EXTENSION

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DO NOT REMOVE THE REFERENCE MARKS MUST BE STAPLED ONLY TO THE TOP OF THE DOCUMENT AND RELEASED BY THE
 ORIGINAL AND THE COPY IS
 SET MARGIN FOR COUNTERPARTY
 MESSAGE AND CONSIDERED ROUTINE UNLESS A HIGHER PRIORITY IS INDICATED IN THE ADDRESS

ALIGN FIRST LETTER IN THIS BOX.

TYPE THE WORD ALPHABET TO REGISTER HERE

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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INFO. FILE

STILL EXISTED. CHILE HAS BEEN UNDER A STATE OF SIEGE SINCE THE MILI-
 TARY TAKEOVER, ALTHOUGH AT A SOMEWHAT REDUCED LEVEL OF EMERGENCY
 SINCE SEPTEMBER 1975.

THE JUNTA LAST WEEK ALSO SWORE IN NEW MINISTERS OF JUSTICE AND
 HOUSING, AS WELL AS THREE SUB-CABINET OFFICIALS. THE NEW APPOINTMENTS,
 FOLLOWING THE FORMAL RESIGNATION OF THE ENTIRE CABINET, FELL SHORT
 OF THE EXTENSIVE CHANGES ANTICIPATED. THE PRESIDENT, HOWEVER, HAS
 INDICATED THAT MORE CHANGES MAY BE IN THE OFFING. PINOCHET SAID HIS
 DECISION TO MAKE THESE SHIFTS WAS BASED ON THE NEED TO OVERCOME THE
 "STAGNATION" THAT HAS SET IN AND TO ESTABLISH A "NEW RHYTHM."

150